

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN-29176

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SECRET

CITE TDCS DB-315/00150-68

DIST 12 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY

DOI 10 JANUARY 1968

SUBJECT APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT OF THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE

ACQ GERMANY, MUNICH (12 JANUARY 1968)

FIELD NO.

SOURCE AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHO CONDUCTS FORMAL LIAISON WITH THE WEST
GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND) FROM REINHARD GEHLEN,
PRESIDENT OF THE BND. GEHLEN ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION
SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD UNTIL IT IS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY.

1. AT A CABINET MEETING ON 10 JANUARY 1968, CHANCELLOR
KIESINGER ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL
GERHARD WESSEL TO SUCCEED REINHARD GEHLEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE
WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND) AS OF 1 MAY 1968. VICE
CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAD AGREED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE CABINET
APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT UNANIMOUSLY.

2. THE DATE FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO BECOME EFFECTIVE WAS
CHOSEN IN PART BECAUSE IT PERMITS SUFFICIENT TIME TO SELECT

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SUCCESSOR TO WESSEL AT NATO, AN APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH THE CONCURRENCE OF NATO PARTNERS IS REQUIRED. GENERAL FELBER IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: PRESUMABLY MAJ. GEN. ERNST FERBER.)

3. A NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BND HAS NOT YET BEEN APPOINTED. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE SPD HAD NOMINATED GUENTHER NOLLAU, WHO IS NOW VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION (BFV).) ON THE BASIS OF GEHLEN'S REPORT TO KIESINGER THAT NOLLAU COULD NOT BE GRANTED THE BND SECURITY CLEARANCES NECESSARY FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BND, KIESINGER DROPPED NOLLAU'S NAME FROM CONSIDERATION. THE ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THIS APPOINTMENT ARE FROM WITHIN THE BND, AND GEHLEN IS CONFIDENT THAT THE BND'S ACTING VICE PRESIDENT, MAJOR GENERAL HORST WENDLAND, WILL BE CHOSEN.

4. FIELD DISTRIBUTION: NONE.

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